

Radnor, PA. — On Tuesday, Congressman Joe Sestak (PA-07) sponsored a workshop to raise awareness of the Veterans History Project run by the Library of Congress. The Congressman's District Office hosted a seminar at Radnor High School's library, where more than 30 Veterans and volunteers throughout the Seventh Congressional District gathered to learn about the interviewing process. Amy Skillman, a professional oral historian who is Director of the Arts and Heritage Program at the Institute for Cultural Partnerships, represented the Library of Congress. She offered insight into the most effective types of questions and spoke about the logistics of setting up an interview, such as how to best position the camera and microphone. — "We cannot let the contributions of those who wore the cloth of our nation fade from memory," said Congressman Sestak. "With the Veterans History Project, the Library of Congress provides a wonderful program through which citizens can obtain a more full appreciation of all that our nation's military personnel have given to our country."

Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and other youth from the surrounding community attended the event to learn more about our history, our nation, and our Veterans. Others in the audience included various representatives from Veterans organizations, such as the Veterans Museum and the VFW Eleftheria Post 6633, Upper Darby, and other area Veterans.

"It is my hope that in the months and years to come we will establish relationships across generations that will enable us all to appreciate the costs of freedom and the true value of those who defend it," said Congressman Sestak. "We need to share and permanently save the stories of Veterans in our communities as a way to both recognize their service and learn from their bravery, dignity and selflessness.

"Soon thousands of Pennsylvania National Guard Troops will return home from overseas, and we want them to be able to record the history of their experiences. It is because of men and women like them that the Veterans History Project is essential to our youth and the legacy of America."

The Veterans History Project, which was started in 2000, collects and preserves the remembrances of American war Veterans and civilian workers who supported them. These collections of first-hand accounts are archived in the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress for use by researchers and to serve as an inspiration for generations to come. The Project collects remembrances of Veterans who served in World War I, World War II, the Cold War, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Persian Gulf War, and the Afghanistan and Iraq conflicts. U.S. citizen civilians who actively supported war efforts (such as war industry workers, USO workers, flight instructors, medical volunteers and defense contractors) are also invited to share their valuable stories.

Relying on volunteers throughout the nation to collect Veterans' stories on its behalf, the Library

of Congress makes project records available to researchers and the general public. They are accessible both at the Library in Washington, D.C., and via the Veterans History Project website, <http://www.loc.gov/vets/>, which offers more information about getting involved.

*Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of "Deep Blue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the "Global War on Terrorism." He served as President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever elected to the Congress.*